

MAINE

PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATION UPDATE



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TO: Animal Care; Public Health Required

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SUBJECT: Maine Animal Rabies 3rd Quarter Update – Jan. 1 – Sept. 30, 2009

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Animal Rabies 3rd Quarterly Update

January 1 – September 30, 2009

The Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC) provides a quarterly update on animal rabies to veterinarians and other animal health professionals. This update may be used as an educational tool to increase the understanding of pet owners and other members of the public regarding the risk of rabies in Maine and in their communities.

This update is for rabid animals for the third quarter of 2009 or January 1 – September 30, 2009 (Table). Visit the Maine CDC rabies prevention website for more information, including rabies testing data updated regularly: <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/ddc/epi/zoonotic/rabies.shtml> The count of positive animals statewide may not be representative of the true incidence of animal rabies. Results are based on only those animals submitted for testing due to contact with a human or domestic animal.

Rabies is transmitted only when the virus is introduced into bite wounds, open cuts in skin, or onto mucous membranes from saliva or other potentially infectious material such as neural tissue. Prompt recognition and reporting of possible exposures to medical professionals, public health officials, and local animal control officers is critical. Please refer to the Maine Rabies Management Guidelines (available at <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/ddc/documents/RabiesManagementGuide2005.pdf>) when assessing a possible exposure. Maine CDC provides consultation and receives reports by phone at 1-800-821-5821 or fax 1-800-293-7534.

Table 1: Animal rabies by county, town and species – Maine, January 1 – September 30, 2009

County	Town	Animal Species				County Total
		<u>Bat</u>	<u>Raccoon</u>	<u>Skunk</u>	<u>Other (Species)</u>	
Androscoggin	Auburn				1(Fox, gray)	
	Danville		1			
	Greene	1				
	Lewiston				1 (Fox, gray)	
	Lisbon		1			
	Poland		1		1 (Fox, gray)	
	Turner		2			9
Aroostook	Masardis				1(Fox, red)	1
Cumberland	Casco			1		
	Cumberland		1			
	Falmouth		1			
	Gorham			1		
	New Gloucester		1	1		
	North Gorham			1		
	Portland	1			1 (Fox, gray)	
	Pownal		1			
	Raymond		1			
	South Portland		1			
	Westbrook		1			13
Hancock	Penobscot		1			1
Kennebec	Benton		1			
	Chelsea		1			
	Litchfield			1		
	Monmouth		1			
	Mount Vernon		1			
	Oakland		1			

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County	Town	Animal Species				County Total
		<u>Bat</u>	<u>Raccoon</u>	<u>Skunk</u>	<u>Other (Species)</u>	
	Readfield	1				
	Rome				1 (Fox,)	
	West Gardiner			1		
	Winthrop		1			10
Knox	Camden	1				1
Lincoln	Whitefield				1 (Fox, gray)	1
Oxford	Otisfield		1			
	W. Paris				1 (cat)	2
Penobscot	Old Town		1			
	Stetson		1			2
Somerset	Cornville			1		1
York	Buxton		2			2
Species Total		4	24	7	7 fox , 1 cat	
Maine Total						43

Table 2: Animal rabies by county, town and species – USDA APHIS Wildlife Services*, January 1 – September 30, 2009

County	Town	Animal Species				County Total
		<u>Bat</u>	<u>Raccoon</u>	<u>Skunk</u>	<u>Other (Species)</u>	
Aroostook	N. Amity		1			
	Sherman			1		2
Penobscot	Patten		1	3		
	Staceyville			1		4
Species Total			1			
Maine Total			1	5		6

* USDA APHIS Wildlife Services perform surveillance testing only on animals with no human or domestic animal exposure.

In late August, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and its cooperators distributed approximately 100,000 oral rabies vaccination baits in Aroostook County to help prevent the further spread of the raccoon variant of rabies.

Wildlife Services, a program within the USDA, in cooperation with the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the Maine Department of Agriculture, Division of Animal Health and Industry, distributed the baits by hand, vehicle and by a low-flying fixed-wing aircraft in rural areas over 585 square miles.

Please contact the Wildlife Services' office in Augusta at (207) 622-8263 to report dead or suspicious-acting raccoons, skunks, fox or coyotes in Northern Maine. If you are bitten or scratched by an animal, wash the wound thoroughly with soap and water and contact your doctor and the Maine Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 1-800-821-5821 in Augusta, Maine for advice.